

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE TURKEY REGIONAL NEWS

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**Foreign Agricultural Service,
United States Department of Agriculture
With offices in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey;
Almaty, Kazakhstan and Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

Covering Turkey, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

New Agriculture Secretary Appointed

On December 4, President George W. Bush announced the appointment of Mike Johanns as the 28th Secretary of Agriculture. Mike Johanns was born in Iowa and raised on a dairy farm. He graduated from Osage (Iowa) Community High School, St. Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota, and earned his law degree from Creighton University in Omaha. Mike Johanns was sworn into office as Nebraska's 38th Governor on January 7, 1999 and in November 2002 became the first Republican to be reelected Governor of Nebraska since 1956. As Governor, he has promoted an agenda of tax relief, less government, building the economy, protecting families, and ensuring the health, safety, and success of Nebraska's children.

The nomination, which requires Senate confirmation, reflects the administration's desire to focus heavily on farm trade over the next four years. Governor Johanns led five delegations of Nebraska government, business, and agriculture leaders on trade missions to eight countries including Japan, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Australia, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Brazil, and Chile. He has also been a strong advocate for Nebraska agriculture producers during a period of depressed commodity prices and severe drought.

As governor, he was a member of the National Governors' Association Executive Committee. He has been an active member of the Association, previously serving as Chairman of the NGA's Committee on Economic Development and Commerce, a post he also held in 2000-2001. He has been serving as Chairman of the Governors' Biotechnology Partnership and continues to serve as the state government representative on the advisory committee to the Export-Import Bank of the United States. He is a Co-lead Governor for the Western Governors' Association (WGA) on drought issues. Governor Johanns is a past Chairman of the Midwestern Governors' Association (2002), former lead governor for agriculture including the 2002 re-authorization of the federal farm bill, and past Chairman of the 25-state Governors' Ethanol Coalition (2001).

Mike Johanns has two children and is married to Stephanie Johanns, a former Lancaster County Commissioner and former State Senator. Stephanie Johanns is currently Vice President of External Relations for Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri, for ALLTEL, a communications company.

Attache Reporting News

Recent agriculture reports submitted by the Ankara office include the Dried Fruit Annual (TU 4037), Citrus Annual (TU 4039), the Uzbekistan Cotton Update (UZ 4008) and the Planting Seeds Annual (TU 4042). Upcoming reports will include the Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional (HRI) sector report, the Tomato Semi-Annual report and the Food Processing Sector report. These reports, all previous reports, and similar reports for countries around the world can be found by clicking on "Attache Reports" from the main website at www.fas.usda.gov

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<http://www.fas.usda.gov/buying.html>

...for a complete summary of all FAS marketing services which includes links to Suppliers Lists and a Distributor's Directory of suppliers who supply mixed containers of grocery and high-value food items.

From this site you can also subscribe to Buyer Alerts and find information on how to register to the Foreign Buyer List and how to submit Trade Leads to our office.

Still no GSM news...

Our office has received numerous phone calls with respects to the GSM program in Turkey. We understand the great interest and importance of the program in Turkey and continue to monitor the approval process. Once the program is announced, we will broadly distribute program information to interested parties.

U.S. – Turkish Agriculture Trade Sets Another Record

During MY 2004 (Oct 03 to Sept 04), U.S. agriculture exports to Turkey set another record of USD 933 million, an increase of six percent over the previous year. Bulk commodities, destined for Turkey's well developed processing and manufacturing sectors lead the way. Cotton and feed ingredients accounted for the majority of the trade, and figures reflect trade through the Mersin Free zone destined for Iraq. U.S. exports of tree nuts (almonds) hides and skins, pet food, and seafood products show good potential for growth.

Meanwhile, Turkish agricultural exports to the United States increased nearly twelve percent to reach USD 356 million. Turkish exports of tobacco increased significantly, and exports of processed fruits and vegetables and tree nuts reached record levels.

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